

10th November, 1946.

B.S. 1946/9

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS

C O N T E N T S

20 NOV 1946

SUMMARY	1
-------------------	---

PART 1 EMPLOYMENT, BUILDING AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES

Employment	September 1946	2
Building Activities	September 1946	4
Industrial Disputes	September 1946	7
New Factories	September 1946	7
Gas and Electricity Consumption	September 1946	7
Coal Production	September 1946	7
Iron and Steel Production	September 1946	8
Building Materials	September 1946	8
New South Wales Railways	September 1946	8
Motor Vehicles registered	September 1946	9

PART 11 FINANCE AND TRADE

Nine Trading Banks, Australia	September 1946	10
Inter-bank Clearings	September 1946	10
Savings Banks	September 1946	10
Savings Certificates	September 1946	11
Stock Exchange	September 1946	11
Real Estate	September 1946	11
Commonwealth Accounts	September 1946	12
New South Wales Accounts	September 1946	12
Retail Trade	August 1946	13
Overseas Trade, Australia	September 1946	14
Retail Prices and Wages	September 1946	13

PART 111 RURAL INDUSTRIES

The Season	15
Wool	15
Wheat	16
Dairying	17

SUMMARY

1. EMPLOYMENT (N.S.W.). The number of men in non rural civil employment at the end of September 1946 reached 624,000 compared with 534,000 in the last month of war (July 1945) and 530,000 in July 1939. The number of male wage earners in rural industry is now approaching but probably has not yet reached the pre-war total of 81,000.

Discharges from the armed forces in New South Wales during September totalled 4,000 men, while the number of men in non-rural employment increased by 5,000 during the month. Some of the men discharged earlier in the year who had taken pre-employment leave are now entering employment, but there is still a difference of 31,000 between the number of men who on discharge stated their intention of entering employment and the actual increase in wage earners. The number of females in employment which had been steady at 247,000 for the previous three months increased by 2,000 during September. The total females in employment (other than rural and private domestic) is now 249,000 compared with 252,000 in the last month of war and 168,000 in 1939, but the number of females offering for work in factories and in essential services, such as hospitals, stills falls far short of requirements.

2. PRODUCTION. With flocks severely reduced by drought conditions and lambing results 1946 adversely affected by dry cold weather it seems likely that the number of sheep to be shorn in 1946-48 seasons in New South Wales will be only about 75 per cent of the pre-war average. The loss in rural income due to reduced volume of wool produced will be substantially offset if present high prices of wool continue and if sales are allowed to proceed.

Because of the anticipated failure of the wheat harvest in Northern and Western districts a crop of less than 20 million bushels is expected for the current season. This is less than 40 per cent of an average pre-war crop and the loss of income this season is only partly offset by a rise in prices to growers.

Some improvement in the coal production during the September quarter has led to the removal of restrictions on power and transport. Full train services have been restored. Factory output continues to expand within the limits of available labour resources and materials. Production of coal in September 1946, however, was slightly below the average of the corresponding period in 1945.

The supplies of textile goods is still short and building materials continue to be inadequate to meet the vastly expanded demand. Production of iron and steel is again flowing at a relatively high level but shortages are still acute especially in regard to fencing wires required by rural industry.

3. GENERAL. Increasing business activity is reflected in the rise of the trading banks' advances to customers and of inter-bank clearings. The flow of deposits into savings banks is declining, but subscriptions to the current Security Loan are absorbing some savings. Consumer spending continues at a high level. In spite of increased turnovers city retail stores have been able to improve their stock position in some departments.

PART I EMPLOYMENT, BUILDING AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT: Since May 1946 the number of wage and salary-earners in non-rural industries in New South Wales has increased steadily at the rate of 6,000 to 7,000 a month, the gain being mainly in male employment. The total number at the end of September was 87,000 higher than at the end of the war, plus an as yet unrecorded increase of probably 7,000 men on building. The monthly increases now exceed the rate of Army discharges. There is a shortage of labour in many industries, principally of juvenile and adult female labour and of juvenile male workers; reports of the Commonwealth Employment Service suggest that the demand for adult male labour does not exceed the number of men offering for employment. The number of men receiving Unemployment or Re-employment benefits at the end of September was 2,552, that is less than half of one per cent of males employed, while only 112 females or less than half of one per 1000 of females in employment drew such benefits.

<u>WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT NEW SOUTH WALES</u> (in thousands)					<u>MEN FROM N.S.W.</u> <u>IN ARMED FORCES</u> (approximate)
At end of	Non Rural Males	Females	Total	Rural Males	
July 1939	530	168	698	81(x)	
July 1945	534	252	786	40(x)	224
April 1946	584	246	830	63(x)	80
May	598	248	846		68
June	606	247	853		57
July	612	247	859		50
August	619	247	866		45
September	624	249	873		41
Change: July 1945 to Sept. 1946	+90	- 3	+87		-183
July 1939 to Sept. 1946	+94	+81	+175		

(x) as at 31st March. (+) denotes increase (-) decrease.

Note: The above figures since July 1945 exclude some of the increase of employment in building. When figures are finally verified the number of males employed in June 1946, shown above as 606,000 will probably be revised to 617,500 with similar adjustments for other months.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF SERVICEMEN . Discharges from the forces in New South Wales have slowed down to a rate of 4,000 a month. Of 224,000 men from New South Wales who were in the forces at the end of the war about 183,000 have now been discharged, leaving approximately 41,000 men from New South Wales in the forces. About 121,000 or two thirds of those discharged stated that they intended to seek employment in non-rural industries but employment in those industries increased by only 90,000 during the same period. Some exservicemen have started work on their own account but others are still on pre-employment leave. The excess of additional men employed over discharges during the past two months shows that men discharged earlier in the year are now entering employment.

DISCHARGES FROM ALL SERVICES - NEW SOUTH WALES.
(000 persons)

	<u>1945</u>		<u>1946</u>	<u>x</u>	
	<u>Sept. Quarter</u>	<u>Dec. Quarter</u>	<u>March Quarter</u>	<u>June Quarter</u>	<u>Sept. Qtr.</u>
Males	16.4	59.4	59.2	34.2	15.5
Females	1.3	3.6	4.4	2.4	1.8
x subject to revision.					

Of a total of about 16,000 women from New South Wales who were in the forces at the end of the war, about 13,500 have now been discharged.

EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES. Total employment in non-rural industries in September was 25 per cent above pre-war level and 11 per cent above the number at the end of the war. Since the end of the war establishments which had worked exclusively on aircraft and Government munitions have reduced their staffs from 20,000 to about 6,000. The 14,000 released from these establishments plus an additional 22,000 men have been absorbed by other factories and the 6,000 still in these establishments are largely on civil work. After a slight decline in August employment in retail trade advanced again in September and is now 20 per cent higher than at the end of the war. An increase in the "other commerce and finance" groups in recent months is mainly due to higher employment in wholesale trade which reflects greater activity in internal and overseas trade.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(in thousands)

At end of -	1939 July	1945 July	1946 July	August	September
Factories	218.0	301.0	318.3	321.3	323.4
Mining and Quarrying	25.3	24.8	25.5	25.7	26.0
Transport and Communication	88.9	102.6	111.9	112.4	112.8
Retail Trade	79.9	69.1	82.7	82.4	83.7
Other commerce & finance	59.3	56.5	70.8	72.3	73.3
Professional & personal services	107.6	116.1	131.0	132.0	132.5
Others	118.9	116.0	119.3	120.3	121.3
TOTAL	697.9	786.1	859.5	866.4	873.0

See footnote to table on page 2.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES. All classes of factories with the exception of food, drink and tobacco factories have shared in the steady increase in employment in recent months. With new factories coming into operation the clothing industries shows the greatest advance. Labour in spinning and weaving mills continues to fall short of requirements.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORY CLASSES, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(in thousands)

At end of -	1939 July	1945 June	1946- June	July	August	September
Bricks, cement, glass etc.	12.3	9.9	12.7	13.0	13.2	13.5
Chemicals, paints, oils etc.	8.0	12.3	14.4	14.4	14.6	14.7
Metal trades, incl. vehicles	81.3	145.5	136.3	136.3	137.6	137.7
Textiles	14.7	18.3	19.2	19.5	19.7	19.9
Clothing	29.1	33.2	38.4	39.1	39.6	40.1
Food, drink & tobacco	26.4	31.6	34.4	34.4	34.3	34.2
Sawnmills, woodworking, furniture	14.4	16.0	17.9	18.2	18.3	18.6
Printing, paper etc.	16.4	15.6	19.6	20.0	20.3	20.6
Other factories, inc. heat, light & power	15.5	19.3	22.9	23.4	23.7	24.1
Total factories	218.1	301.7	315.8	318.3	321.3	323.4

(+) Denotes increase; (-) denotes decrease.

EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALES.

Total female employment in non-rural industries in New South Wales which since May of this year had been steady around 247,000 increased to 249,000 in September, that is the highest figure for a year and 50 per cent more than at the outbreak of war. In the trade, finance and professional and personal groups female employment is now well above the level of July 1945. Female factory employment has shown a small, steady increase in recent months but remains much below requirements. A small decline in female employment in the transport industries was caused by the replacement of women by men in that group, but the tramways are again advertising for female labour.

FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN MAIN INDUSTRIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

At end of	(in thousands)					Total (including other groups)
	Transport & Communication	Retail Trade	Other Commerce and Finance	Profession -al and Personal Services	Factories	
1939 July	5.3	32.5	10.2	47.7	59.3	168.0
1945 July	14.6	39.2	20.6	68.5	86.4	252.1
1946 April	13.2	40.6	20.4	71.8	80.6	245.5
May	13.1	40.9	20.5	72.4	81.8	247.5
June	13.1	40.8	20.4	72.2	82.2	246.7
July	12.6	40.9	20.6	72.2	83.1	247.1
August	12.5	40.5	20.9	72.7	83.2	247.3
September	12.4	41.1	21.1	73.4	83.9	249.2
Change: July 1945 to Sept. 1946	-2.2	+1.9	+0.5	+4.9	-2.5	-2.9
July 1939 to Sept. 1946	+7.1	+8.6	+10.9	+25.7	+24.6	+81.2
(+) denotes increase (-) denotes decrease.						

No significant change occurred in the distribution of female employment over the various factory groups. The clothing industries showed a further small gain but although employment in that group is now 40 per cent higher than before the war and employment in textile mills 16 per cent higher, female staff in those two groups falls still far short of requirements.

FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN FACTORIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

At end of -	(in thousands)				
	1939 July	1945 June	1946- July	August	September
Bricks, cement, glass etc.	.5	.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
Chemicals, paints, oils etc.	2.7	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	4.8	21.3	14.1	13.7	13.8
Textiles	9.2	11.5	10.6	10.6	10.7
Clothing	22.2	25.9	29.8	30.2	30.6
Food, drink & tobacco .	9.3	11.2	10.3	10.3	10.1
Sawmills, woodworking, furniture	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
Printing, paper etc.	5.4	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.3
Other factories, including heat, light & power	3.6	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.5
<u>Total factories . . .</u>	<u>59.3</u>	<u>86.9</u>	<u>83.1</u>	<u>83.2</u>	<u>83.9</u>
(+) Denotes increase; (-) denotes decrease.					

BUILDING ACTIVITY.

PROPOSED NEW BUILDINGS: The following table shows the active demand for new buildings as shown by recorded value of permits issued by Local Councils and Government buildings begun or contracts let:-

	Private Buildings (a) Permits £000	Government Buildings (b) Begun £000	Total £000
<u>1938-39</u>			
Quarterly Average	4,821	500(c)	5,321
1945-Sept. Qtr.	2,997	1,579	4,576
" Dec. Qtr.	4,736	1,522	6,258
1946-March Qtr.	5,805	1,536	7,341
" June Qtr.	7,387	1,439	8,826
" Sept. Qtr.	9,505	1,905	11,410

- (a) Council permits, metropolitan area, and 129 country towns and 7 shires.
 (b) Contracts let and day-labour projects begun, whole State.
 (c) Estimate.

The record of private building projects above covers the more populous parts of the State, but excludes areas embracing 28 per cent of the State's population. The figures show the trend but not the absolute total. They are probably between 80 per cent and 90 per cent of the State total.

Allowing for rise in building costs, volume of projected new building covered by private permits issued by councils in September Quarter 1946 was probably in the vicinity of 40 per cent greater than the quarterly average in 1938-39. From the end of the war to June 1946 the volume of Government building begun each quarter was fairly constant and was about double of the volume of 1938-39. Value and volume of both Government and private new building projects showed a substantial rise in September quarter 1946. The total recorded value of new projects for that quarter was equal to an annual rate of £46,000,000 for recorded areas compared with about £21,000,000 in 1938-39. Roughly it is estimated that value of projected new buildings in the whole State is now running at the high rate of about £50,000,000 per year compared with a little more than £20,000,000 in 1938-39. Assuming a 50 per cent rise in building costs, it appears that the volume of new building for which permits are being granted at present is about ~~50~~ 66 per cent greater than in 1938-39.

NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED. It is estimated that prior to the war nearly 90 per cent of building projects approved by Councils or commenced by Governments were completed without delay. On this basis it is estimated that the value of new buildings completed in New South Wales immediately prior to the war was rather more than £20,000,000 per annum (Private and Government combined).

Estimates based on a new return collected from builders throughout New South Wales show that the value of Government and private buildings completed in the State in the year 1945-46 was £8,600,000. This, however, includes approximately £2,000,000 of major contracts for buildings for defence purposes which were terminated in the latter half of 1945. During the year following the end of the war building increased rapidly and the value of buildings completed in September quarter 1946 was equivalent to an annual rate of about £11,000,000.

NEW SOUTH WALES, VALUE OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED.

Period	By Private Contractors (a)	By Govern- ment Bodies	Total
	£000	£000	£000
1945 Sept. Qtr.	2,056(b)	366	2,422(b)
Dec. Qtr.	1,905(b)	212	2,117(b)
1946 March Qtr.	1,757	89	1,846
June Qtr.	2,026	194	2,220
Sept. Qtr. (c)	(2,600)	(260)	(2,860)

(a) Includes Government buildings erected by private contractors

(b) Includes approximately £1,000,000 in September Quarter and £1,000,000 in December Quarter of major defence contracts terminated.

(c) Rough estimate subject to revision.

NEW BUILDINGS IN COURSE OF ERECTION. The values of new buildings in course of erection and remaining uncompleted as at 30th June and 30th September 1946 were as follow :-

NEW BUILDINGS IN COURSE OF ERECTION (uncompleted)

As at -	Houses (a)	Other New Buildings	Total
	£000	£000	£000
30th June 1946	6,554	4,239	10,793
30th September 1946	(b) (7,800)	(5,400)	(13,200)
(a) Exclusive of houses being erected by their owners without the aid of a building contractor.			
(b) Rough estimate subject to revision.			

LABOUR ENGAGED ON NEW BUILDINGS. The increase in number of persons working on new buildings in New South Wales has been approximately as follows -

as at -	Wage Earners		Private Contractors and Sub-Contractors	Total (b)
	Employed by Private Contractors and Sub-Contractors	Employed by Government Bodies		
1945- 30th September	7,400	3,900	3,000	14,300
1946- 30th June	14,900	4,400	7,100	26,400
30th September(a)	(16,000)	(4,000)	(8,000(c))	(28,000)
(a) Approximate subject to revision.				
(b) Exclusive of labour working on houses being erected by their owners without the aid of a building contractor.				
(c) Rough estimate subject to revision.				

NUMBER OF NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED. It is estimated that roughly about 14,000 new dwellings were completed per year in New South Wales immediately prior to the war. Of these, in the vicinity of 10,000 were individual houses and 4,000 were individual flats.

In 1945-46 the estimated number of new dwellings completed in New South Wales was 5,117 (including 10 individual flats.)

The number of new houses completed in New South Wales in each quarter since September 1945 were approximately as follows:-

NEW SOUTH WALES - NEW HOUSES COMPLETED.

Quarter	By Private Contractors (a) (Houses)	By Government Bodies (Houses)	Total Houses (c)
1945-Sept. Qtr.	863	296	1,159
Dec. Qtr.	872	165	1,037
1946-March Qtr.	1,150	81	1,231
June Qtr.	1,539	141	1,680
Sept. Qtr.(b)	(1,950)	(225)	(2,175)
(a) Including houses built for Government by private contractors.			
(b) Rough estimate subject to revision.			
(c) Exclusive of houses built by owners without the aid of a contractor.			

HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION (uncompleted). As at 30th June 1946 there were approximately 5,700 houses in course of erection, uncompleted. The corresponding number as at 30th September 1946 was in the vicinity of 6,500. Both figures exclude houses being erected by owners without the aid of a contractor.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES. The number of man-working days lost through industrial disputes in September was well below the average of earlier months and also less than the monthly average of pre-war years. Though the number of registered disputes remains low industrial unrest has been evidencing itself recently in industries other than mining in different forms such as notice being given by groups of key-workers.

NUMBER OF MAN-WORKING DAYS LOST THROUGH INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, N.S.W.
(in thousands)

<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>1937-39</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>					
			<u>March Qr.</u>	<u>June Qr.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	
Coal & shale mining	39	57	20	26	50	36	20	
Other Industries	14	103	23	33	17	2	16	
<u>Total</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>36</u>	

NEW FACTORIES REGISTERED, NEW SOUTH WALES. The number of persons initially engaged in new factories in New South Wales was 592 in September as against 1241 in August and 1406 in July, and the number of new factories registered also declined by about a half as compared with the two previous months. Measured by employment in existing factories, the clothing and woodworking sections show the largest gain during the September quarter.

NUMBER OF PERSONS, INITIALLY ENGAGED IN NEW FACTORIES REGISTERED IN N.S.W.
IN THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1946.

	<u>Metropolitan</u>	<u>Balance of State</u>	<u>Total N.S.W.</u>
Metal Trades incl. vehicles	764	153	917
Clothing	546	450	996
Food, drink & tobacco	83	119	202
Woodworking, sawmilling	133	150	283
Paper, Stationery and Printing	83	113	196
Other factories	539	106	645
<u>Total factories</u>	<u>2,148</u>	<u>1,091</u>	<u>3,239</u>

GAS AND ELECTRICITY. Sales of gas and electricity in September, after making allowance for seasonal fluctuations, were 67% above pre-war level and considerably higher than in earlier months. Increased industrial activity combined with the lifting of all remaining restrictions on the use of power and lighting have kept the consumption of gas and electricity at a high level.

INDEX OF CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY - SYDNEY
Three years ended June 1939 = 100. Seasonally adjusted.

<u>1946</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
	138	151	153	160	160	160	159	158	167

COAL PRODUCTION. A continued rise in coal production on the Northern field has raised the total output for New South Wales to an average of 224,000 tons per week for September, which is the highest figure so far for the current year but average weekly output for September Quarter 1946 was about ten per cent less than for September Quarter 1945.

COAL INDUSTRY, NEW SOUTH WALES, PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Three years 1937 to 1939	Year 1945				Year 1946			
	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	July	Aug. Sept.
	Output of coal, weekly averages, in thousands of tons.							
200	198	206	250	138	194	200	207	228 244
	working days lost through industrial disputes in 000 man-days							
39(a)	36(a)	46(a)	38(a)	104(a)	20(a)	26(a)	50(a)	36(a) 20(a)
	(a) Monthly average.							

The average weekly figure for September takes in the extra output for the first Saturday on which mines on the Northern field were working under the scheme which provides for their operating on alternating Saturdays to build up reserves for the miners' Christmas holidays.

IRON AND STEEL. Iron and Steel production which had fallen off in August rose again in September. This was apparently due to an improvement in coal supplies.

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION, N.S.W.

	1938-39	1944-45	1945	1946			
			August	June	July	Augustx	Septemberx
	Production index (average, three years ended June 1939=1000)						
Pig Iron							
N.S.W.	1124	1134	1247	945	1091	862	966
N.S.W. & Whyalla		Whyalla Nil		1186	1231	1126	1181
Ingot Steel	1032	1126	1167	1146	1158	1123	1176

x Preliminary subject to revision

BUILDING MATERIALS. there was a slight improvement in the output of bricks in September as against the previous months, but it was still only about 60 per cent of the 1939 level. Employment in brickworks which totalled 800 for the State at the end of the war has steadily increased since and now stands at 1,600. Output of roofing tiles has been at pre-war level since July last. Production of concrete and stoneware pipes showed increases in the September quarter but the output of fibrous plaster sheets was affected by transport difficulties. Shortage of transport is also holding up timber supplies to the metropolitan area.

Local output of sawn timber has been steadily improving and is now over 50 per cent above the 1939 level. Insufficient land and sea transport is available to take supplies into Sydney. But the main reason for the timber shortage in Sydney is the lack of imports from North America which formerly supplied over half of Sydneys needs. Efforts are being made to treat local timbers so as to make them suitable for joinery purposes for which previously imported timber had been used, and the local Government regulations have been amended so as to allow reduction in the size of certain structural timbers. However, such measures and a continued increase in output from local mills can only alleviate but not overcome the shortage in timber supplies due to lack of imports.

OUTPUT OF CERTAIN BUILDING MATERIALS, N.S.W.

	1939	1945	1946, Monthly average-				
	Mthly Avgr.	August	March Qtr.	June Qtr.	July	August	Sept.
Bricks (million)	31.6	8.3	12.3	15.3	20.8	18.3	18.7
Roofing tiles (million)	1.7	.5	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.6
Local-sawn timber (million super feet)	15.0	18.4	18.5	20.0	23.1	(a)	(a)
	(a) Not yet available.						

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS. In spite of reduced timetables, both the number of passenger journeys and the tonnage of goods carried was higher in the September quarter of this year than in the comparable quarter of 1939. Higher working expenses reduced the increased gross earnings for the 1946 quarter to the same amount of net earnings as a smaller traffic yielded in 1939. Apart from the goods traffic recorded in the following table,

the railways carried a great number of sheep from north western drought district to agistment areas in August and September of the current year.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS
(millions)

Year	Month of September			Three months ended September			
	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Gross Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods	Gross Earnings	Net ϕ Earnings
	No.	Tons	£	No.	Tons	£	£
1939	14.3	1.44x	1.86	43.8	4.34x	5.07	1.54
1944	20.3	1.53	2.55	61.7	4.72	8.06	2.27
1945	21.4	1.30	2.61	65.4	4.20	7.97	1.99
1946	22.3	1.43	2.53	66.6	4.35	7.63	1.54

x Excludes livestock

ϕ Gross earnings less working expenses available to meet debt charges.

As from 27th October all remaining restrictions on train services were lifted. Suburban and country timetables and sleeper services have been restored to normal.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED. With imports of motor cars increasing the number of registrations of new motor cars has risen steadily in recent months though it is still much below pre-war level.

NUMBER OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED, NEW SOUTH WALES.

	1939 June	1946- April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
Car (a)	1633	80	108	156	267	319	561
Lorries & Vans	615	498	604	313	450	521	489
Total cars, lorries & Vans	2468	578	812	469	717	840	1050

(a) including Motor buses.

The number of old motor cars reregistered (including service vehicles sold to civilians) averaged about 1,000 during the past three months. As a result of Army disposal sales the number of reregistrations of lorries has risen to 1,800 in September.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW SOUTH WALES.

At end of	(thousands)			
	August	August	August	September
	1939	1945	1946	1946
Cars	216.6	185.7	191.7	192.4
Lorries & Vans	77.7	84.2	100.1	101.9
Total Vehicles (a)	329.2	300.3	329.9	333.2

(a) Includes also trailers, motor cycles, buses, cabs etc.

The total number of vehicles registered in New South Wales at the end of September 1946 was the highest on record. That was due to the increased number of lorries and vans which formed 31 per cent of the total of all vehicles as against 23 per cent in August 1939. The proportion of motor cars has fallen correspondingly and is still below pre-war level.

Shortages of raw material and industrial trouble are slowing down overseas production of motor vehicles. Shortage of steel in particular is affecting production in the United States and Great Britain, and it is reported that Australian body production is also held up by a shortage of sheet steel and other steel products.

PART 11 FINANCE AND TRADE

NINE TRADING BANKS, AUSTRALIA. Both customers' deposits with trading banks and banks' advances to customers increased by about £6 million in September. Customers' deposits are now £622 million compared with £580 million in September 1945 and £315 million in September 1939. Advances to customers are now £244 million compared with £208 million in September 1945 and £296 million in September 1939. Bank holdings of Government securities which had risen from £22 million in September 1939 to a peak of £117 million in July 1946 had fallen to £110 million by September 1946. Treasury bills showed an increase of £4 millions. Treasury bill holdings had been reduced to £21 millions in July with a consequent reduction in the trading banks' liquidity and the ratio of cash and treasury bills to deposits is still well below that of last year. A decline in the banks' Special Account with the Commonwealth Bank in spite of increasing deposits seems to indicate that the trading banks are being granted some liberty to increase their advances to meet the demands of industry but the stringent cash position will act as a limiting factor in the banks' lending policy.

NINE TRADING BANKS BUSINESS WITHIN AUSTRALIA.

In millions of pounds.

Date	Deposits at cred- it of Custom- ers	Advan- ces to Custom- ers	Gov't & Municip- al Sec- urities	Special A/c.with Common- wealth Bank	Treas- ury Bills	Cash	Ratios		
							Advances to Deposits	Cash & Treasury Bills to Deposits	Special Account to Deposits
							per cent	per cent	per cent
Sept. 1939	315	296	22	-	17	32	94	16	-
" 1944	543	215	100	183x	58	38	40	18	34
" 1945	580	208	109	220x	61	39	36	17	38
July 1946	613	236	117	256	21	32	39	9	42
Aug. 1946	616	238	113	252	23	37	39	10	41
Sept. 1946	622	244	110	251	27	37	39	10	40

x Special War-time Deposits.

INTER-BANK CLEARING, SYDNEY. Turnover at the Sydney clearing house (excluding Treasury bill transactions) continues to show marked increases as against last years' figures. The monthly average of £164 millions for the September quarter was £15 millions higher than in the June quarter and £41 millions above the average for the September quarter, 1945. This rise in the circulation of cheques corresponds to the increase in business turnovers.

INTER-BANK CLEARINGS, SYDNEY.
(£ millions)

Monthly Average	March Quarter	June Quarter	September Quarter
Value of transactions			
1945	115	129	123
1946	130	149	164
Percentage Increase	+ 13%	+ 16%	+ 30%

SAVINGS BANKS AND SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.SAVINGS BANK, NEW SOUTH WALES.
(£ million)

	Deposits Lodged during Month	WITHDRAWALS made during Month	Net Increase(+) or Decrease (-) in Savings	Total Customers' Deposits	Number of Accounts (000)
1946					
January	19.0	13.9	+ 5.1	224.7	1,893
February	17.8	13.8	+ 4.0	228.7	1,905
March	17.2	15.5	+ 1.7	230.4	1,893
April	15.3	14.8	+ 0.5	230.7	1,901
May	16.6	15.3	+ 1.3	232.2	1,911
June	14.6	14.2	+ 0.4	232.6	1,911
Add Interest			+(3.6)	236.2	
July	16.6	15.5	+ 1.1	237.3	1,921
August	14.5	14.8	- 0.3	237.0	1,929
September	13.2	14.3	- 1.1	235.9	1,934

The fall in new deposits in savings banks continued in August and September and there was a decline in total balances for the first time since the end of the war. The number of accounts, however, continues to increase. Withdrawals have been at a high level since March; they have remained steady around £14 to £15.5 millions a month and were actually slightly lower in August and September than in July. Therefore the fall in total deposits since August has not been due to increased expenditure of accumulated savings, but rather to a falling off in new deposits consequent on such factors as reduced Government spending, advance subscriptions for the Second Security Loan and reduced credits of deferred pay due to the smaller number of discharges and the shorter period of service of those who are now being discharged.

WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES, As from the end of May 1946 War Savings Certificates (N.S.W.) were replaced by Savings Certificates which are issued under the same terms as the previous issue with a similar maximum of £250 for each individual holding without taking holdings of War Savings Certificates into account. The average monthly sales of War Savings Certificates in New South Wales were £331,000 in the first half of 1945; £61,000 in the first half of 1946 and of Savings Certificates £340,000 in July, £255,000 in August and £166,000 in September 1946.

STOCK EXCHANGE. Early in September prices at the New York Stock Exchange began to fall heavily. At the same time quotations for some leading shares on Australian Stock Exchanges fell below ceiling limits. Turn-over in these shares which had been very small in recent years increased during the first half of September.

Towards the end of the month the market rallied and some of the decline was recovered. During October turnover was small and prices for some leading shares remained below the ceiling prices. Prices of most shares in Sydney, however, remained firm at ceiling limits.

The index compiled by the Sydney Stock Exchange weights share prices in accordance with number of shares issued and this index showed downward and upward fluctuations following prices of the main issues. The index compiled by the New South Wales Government Statistician shows that in general share prices of small New South Wales companies held firm. This index includes selected shares of companies which transact all or most of their business in this State and is unweighted. The rise of this index for September is due to a rise in the quotations for many of the smaller Sydney companies which more than compensated for the drop in share prices of a few large companies.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY
Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Bank). Par value = 100.
(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).

Average for Month	Manufacturing and Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral and Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-Aug.	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-Mar.	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1945-Aug.	242.3	207.3	170.3	146.8	264.6	195.6	209.9
1946-May	280.5	239.5	191.1	162.8	306.9	222.8	241.2
June	280.5	239.4	190.9	161.0	306.9	222.3	240.8
July	280.5	239.5	190.5	161.6	306.9	222.3	240.6
August	285.7	244.6	193.6	165.1	312.2	226.2	244.5
Sept.	290.5	250.1	196.0	163.7	320.6	229.8	247.1

REAL ESTATE. Sales of properties as shown by transfer documents totalled £6.4 millions in September, an increase of £0.7 millions over the August figure and almost three times the amount recorded in January. With the exception of June there has been a continuous rise in the total of sales since the end of last year. The number of sales registered has increased from 4,000 in January to 10,600 in September indicating that an increase in individual transactions rather than higher values of properties transferred is causing the

present high rate of turnover in the real estate market

	Nine months ended September			1946		
	1938	1945	1946	July	Aug.	Sept.
	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ mill- ions	£ mill- ions	£ mill- ions
Real Estate Sales	28.8	19.7	35.6	4.0	5.7	6.4
Mortgages Registered	19.9	6.7	14.4	1.6	2.4	2.3

The amount of mortgages registered in September was about equal to that in August. Reduced demand for mortgage finance because of higher liquidity of property buyers is shown in the decline in the proportion of mortgages to sales from 68 per cent for the nine months ended September 1938 to 40 per cent for the comparative period in 1946.

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

£ millions

REVENUE

Three months ended Sept.

	1945	1946
Customs & Excise	16.8	23.8
Income Tax	50.1	43.8
Sales Tax	7.3	10.0
Payroll Tax	2.9	3.3
Other Taxes	3.1	3.0
Total Taxes	80.2	84.1
Post Office	7.0	7.2
Other	2.2	2.1
Total Revenue	89.4	93.4

EXPENDITURE

Three months ended Sept.

	1945	1946
War (1939-45)	108.2	56.0
Social Services	12.4	14.5
Payments to States	3.9	6.3
Tax reimbursed to States	4.0	7.9
Post Office	4.4	5.0
Other	9.5	15.1
Total Expenditure	142.4	104.8

Income tax collections which had been below last year's figure in July and August increased in September to £14.8 millions; because of differences in the dates of assessment and payment these figures are not comparable with those of last year. The gradual increase in imports in recent months is reflected in higher customs and excise receipts. The present high rate of employment is shown in pay-roll tax receipts of £1.12 million for September which is the highest monthly figure since the inception of this tax in 1941. Sales tax receipts with £3.66 in September were also the highest on record.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

(£ millions)

REVENUE

Three months ended September

	1945	1946
From Commonwealthx	2.2	4.3
State Taxation	1.6	1.8
Other Governmental	1.4	1.8
Business Undertakingsxx	9.5	9.6
Total Revenue	14.7	17.5

Net surplus

Net deficit

Three months ended September

	1945	1946
Net debt charges	3.7	3.5
Governmental	5.0	5.9
Business Undertakings xx	7.2	7.8
Total Expenditure	15.9	17.2

(+) 0.3

(-) 1.2

x Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interests and hospital benefits.

xx Railways, trams and buses, Sydney Harbour. Excludes debt charges.

For the first quarter of the current financial year total revenue exceeded expenditure by £0.3 million as against a deficit of £1.2 millions in the corresponding period of last year. This was mainly due to larger receipts from the Commonwealth under the Tax Reimbursement Act. New South Wales will receive in 1946/47 altogether £1 million more than in 1945/46 under that Act, but because of higher instalments paid in the early months of the financial year receipts amounted to £3.3 millions in the September quarter 1946 as against £1.4 millions last year.

Expenditure on Works from loan funds totalled £1 million for the September quarter 1946.

RETAIL TRADE.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage increase + or decrease - on same month of previous year

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August
Value of Sales	+25	+37	+48	+47	+52	+10	+26	+45
Value of Stock	- 6	-10	-11	-13	-13	- 8	+ 1	+ 8

Sales in large Sydney stores while in June and July had shown smaller increases over last years' figures than in previous months were comparatively higher again in August. Allowance should be made for the higher number of working days in August 1946 when they totalled 27 as against 25 working days in August 1945.

Sales in all clothing sections exceeded those of last year, in particular in piece goods, men's wear and footwear. Children's wear and millinery show only moderate increases. The stock position has improved in the footwear departments and in all sections of woman's wear with the exception of hosiery. Stocks were lower in men's and boys' wear. Sales in the furniture and hardware sections continue well above last year's level.

Movements in the principal sections were as follows -

SYDNEY RETAIL STORES.

Movements in Sales and Stocks, Percentage increase +, or decrease -
AUGUST 1946.

	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>		<u>Sales</u>	<u>Stock</u>
	%	%		%	%
Piece Goods	+39	-19	Furniture	+18	+16
Women's Wear	+28	+12	Hardware	+96	+40
Men's Wear	+39	- 3	Food Perishables	+36	+37
Boots & Shoes	+50	+25	Miscellaneous	+46	+ 8
<u>Total Clothing</u>	<u>+36</u>	<u>+ 1</u>	<u>All Classes</u>	<u>+45</u>	<u>+ 6</u>

RETAIL PRICES AND WAGES. The "C" series index of retail prices in Sydney showed a small increase in the September quarter following a rise in clothing prices which more than outbalances a slight fall in the food and groceries group and fuel costs. The total increase since September 1939 was 25.1% as against the previous peak of 24.9% in June 1943 when price stabilisation became effective. The rise since December 1945 is mainly due to the steady increase in clothing prices.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX, SYDNEY

Increases from September Quarter 1939 to

	<u>June Qr. 1943</u>	<u>March Qr. 1946</u>	<u>June Qr. 1946</u>	<u>Sept. Qr. 1946</u>
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Food and groceries	+14.5	+11.3	+11.8	+10.8
Rent	+ 0.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Clothing	+75.9	+74.0	+79.5	+82.7
Miscellaneous	+23.7	+24.3	+24.7	+24.4
<u>All Items</u>	<u>+24.9</u>	<u>+23.4</u>	<u>+24.9</u>	<u>+25.1</u>

The basic wage for Sydney (4 towns) was raised by one shilling to £5/1/- as from November 1946; this compares with £4/1/- in August 1939 and £4/18/- in May 1943 when price stabilisation orders were introduced.

OVERSEAS TRADE, AUSTRALIA. Civilian imports for the September quarter 1946 were £16 millions higher than in September quarter 1945; imports on Government account fell in the same period by £21 millions reducing total imports by £5 millions. The value of exports has greatly increased since the middle of the current year and is now twice as large as last year.

AUSTRALIA, OVERSEA TRADE
(£A million)

<u>Merchandise:</u>	<u>September Quarter</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>
Imports: Civil Trade			26.2	42.4
Commonwealth Govt.			<u>29.2</u>	<u>7.9</u>
		33.5	55.4	50.3
Exports:		<u>30.7</u>	<u>38.5</u>	<u>81.0</u>
		- 2.8	-16.9	+30.7

(+) denotes export surplus; (-) import surplus.

Comparing the value of imports for the September quarter 1946 with those of 1945 and 1938 piece goods, rubber, paper, tobacco, tea and motor chassis show substantial increases, but advances in prices should be taken into account. With imports from continental countries still well below pre-war level the imports from Empire countries now amount to 69 per cent of the total as against 59 per cent in 1938.

EXPORT ITEMS AUSTRALIA.
(£A million)

<u>September Quarter</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>
Milk and Butter	2.3	1.6	3.1
Beef and Lamb	1.9	2.9	4.1
Wheat and Flour	4.0	0.8	9.0
Wool	6.3	13.5	31.3
Hides and Skins	0.9	3.9	5.5
Lead	1.0	0.8	2.3

With more shipping available there was an acceleration in wool exports from accumulated stocks during the September quarter. About a third of wool exports were shipped to the United States and a fourth went to the United Kingdom. Shipments of meat to England and of wheat and flour to India, Ceylon and Malaya were other major export items.

PART III : RURAL INDUSTRIES.

THE SEASON. The northern, central and western parts of the State benefited from heavy rains at the end of September, and during October good falls were recorded in the tablelands and coastal districts. The rain came too late to save the wheat crop in most of the northern districts but it halted the further deterioration of the light crops which are expected in the central and western tablelands and other districts. More rain is needed to maintain the crop in the Southern parts of the State.

The pastoral position remained generally unsatisfactory. The delay in rain falls and protracted cold weather have seriously affected the growth of new pastures. Pastures in the Riverina which up to September had been in excellent condition are now beginning to suffer from lack of rain.

RAINFALL INDEX, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.

Normal rainfall each month = 100

Period	Dairying Districts	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts			
		N.	C.	S.	W.	State	N.	C.	S.	State
1944 (year)	79	66	54	53	53	57	68	51	52	53
1945 (year)	109	99	101	86	77	93	95	100	84	89
1946 Jan.	77	153	100	166	236	151	130	110	184	158
Feb.	140	95	129	327	228	195	49	153	363	269
Mar.	160	66	76	105	43	79	48	76	113	95
Apr.	152	66	90	61	14	65	60	78	48	57
May	18	39	40	53	24	42	37	35	49	43
June	44	23	38	75	64	49	33	38	59	50
July	2	17	38	109	34	55	20	42	114	84
Aug.	16	2	13	60	8	25	1	14	60	41
Sept.	88	203	68	15	156	99	160	47	10	39

N: Northern, C: Central, S: Southern, W: Western.

WOOL: Prices at the third series of Sydney sales which closed at 10th October were as firm as for previous sales, and 98 per cent of the wool offered was sold. Total sales of wool in Sydney between 1st July and 10th October 1946 amounted to 178,000 bales of which 161,000 bales were sold at auction as against a total of 245,000 bales appraised during the same period last year. Subsequent auctions in October were suspended owing to an industrial dispute. Arrival of wool in Sydney stores in the three months ended September 1946 exceed arrivals of 1944 and 1945 and (allowing for the reduction in clip due to drought losses) compare favourably with the corresponding period of 1938.

NUMBER OF BALES RECEIVED INTO STORE IN SYDNEY.
(000 Bales)

<u>July-September</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>
	423	263	311	346

Shipments of wool from Sydney for July, August and September, 1946 totalled 490,000 bales, that is 144,000 bales more than was received in Sydney stores during the period.

While the heavy demand from overseas continues wool prices are likely to remain at their present high level. The effectiveness of the stabilisation scheme will not become evident until the demand falls off and prices drop down to the reserve-price level.

United States' buyers have been less active at recent sales than in pre-war years. Wool consumption in the United States continues at a high level but because of cheaper prices the demand for domestic wool has been heavier than usual. However, current domestic production is only 33 per cent to 40 per cent of total requirements and stocks are declining. The domestic product is mostly of a low grade and finer wools are imported. The demand for high-class Australian and other Dominion wool was shown by America's heavy

purchases from Joint Organisation stocks in 1945-46, and American buyers are expected to bid more freely at Australian sales later in the season when high grade wool is offered. A recently announced increase in the price for the current American clip will strengthen the competitive position of Dominion wool in America.

World wool production throughout the war was well maintained as compared with production of other textile materials. According to estimates published in "Rayon Organon" world production of wool, cotton, rayon (yarn and staple) and silk totalled 18,000 million lbs in 1939 and 15,000 million lbs in 1945. During that period the share of wool in the total production increased from 13 per cent to 15 per cent and that of cotton from 73 per cent to 75 per cent while rayon yarn and staple showed a decrease from 13 per cent to 10 per cent. Reduced acreages and low yield affected the 1945/46 cotton crop in the United States with a consequent reduction in the world cotton crop from 25 million bales in 1944/45 to 22 million bales in 1945/46.

The rehabilitation of the woollen industries in continental Europe is making good progress. French spinning mills are working at 70 per cent of capacity and weaving mills are employed at 65 per cent. Under a Government programme of providing cheap clothing the manufacturers are concentrating on the mass production of utility clothes. With increasing supplies of wool and other textiles becoming available the Swiss industry is reported to have reached two thirds of its pre-war capacity. The industry is fully occupied with supplying the local market and is exporting only rayon products. Manufacturers are reluctant to expand their output because of the shortage of skilled labour and their belief that the present demand for textiles will not continue for long. The Swiss textile machinery industry has been kept well up to date during the war and is exporting the latest types of looms to Europe, America and the Dominions. As more supplies become available the activities of the Italian textile mills are also increasing. Combing and worsted spinning is done mostly on account of foreign firms and the currency derived from this work is used to import wool for the local market.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is extending its investigations into wool and sheep problems. New laboratories will undertake research into sheep genetics, wool biology, sheep nutrition and pasture research.

The Federal Government is paying a subsidy to Australian manufacturers for the use of wool in clothing for domestic consumption. This enables them to buy at auction sales in free competition with foreign buyers. The subsidy is calculated according to the difference between the average market price and the pegged minimum prices and is determined by the Australian Wool Realisation Commission.

WHEAT.

Preliminary figures for the 1945-46 wheat crop in Australia have been published.

The 1945-46 crop in New South Wales was the largest since 1939-40 and well above the pre-war average, but taking all the seven war years the average was only 47 million bushels per year as against 56 million bushels for the ten years preceding the war. All major wheat producing States experienced a better harvest in 1945-46 than in the preceding year. New South Wales contributed 45 per cent of the total harvest which is a higher proportion than in earlier years.

WHEAT PRODUCTION: NEW SOUTH WALES AND AUSTRALIA (million bushels)

Average

	<u>1928-29-1938-39</u>	<u>1939-40</u>	<u>1940-41</u>	<u>1941-42</u>	<u>1942-43</u>	<u>1943-44</u>	<u>1944-45</u>	<u>1945-46</u>
<u>New South Wales</u>	55.9	76.6	23.9	48.5	51.7	47.5	17.1	62.5
<u>Australia</u>	169.4	210.5	82.2	166.7	155.7	109.7	52.9	142.4x

x preliminary.

For 1946-47 officers of the Department of Agriculture forecast a crop of less than 20 million bushels for New South Wales. The September rain falls were too late for the recovery of the crops in the Northern, Western and Western part of the Southern districts, but in some of those parts they assured that at least sufficient wheat for seed will be harvested. There will be no price fixed for seed wheat for the 1947 sowings. Where crops do not yield sufficient wheat for local seed requirements the Wheat Board will make some available from stocks of the 1945-46 harvest or supply lists of approved growers. Because of

the high world parity for wheat it is expected that seed wheat prices in Australia will also be high for the coming Season.

DAIRYING. Dry and cold weather conditions seriously affected the major dairying districts in August and the September rain falls were also below normal. During August, only the Riverina and the Hunter Valley showed increasing production of dairy produce. Larger supplies from the Hunter Valley helped to maintain the metropolitan milk supply for August at 3.5 million gallons. Butter production in August equalled that of the two previous months.

NEW SOUTH WALES, PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES.
(in thousand of tons)

Average three years ended 1939-	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August.</u>
1940	3.7	2.7	2.4	2.4
Year 1945	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.8
1946	2.0	1.2	1.2	1.2

--- --- --- --- --- ---